

APPRECIATING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

ROOSEVELT ISLAND

A Ride Into History,
Halfway Across the River

First, it was inhabited by Algonquians, who called it Minnahanock. In 1828, New York City bought it for \$32,000 and built centers for the sick and the criminal.

But on Saturday, what is now

known as Roosevelt Island will be a tourist attraction. The tour company Adventure on a Shoestring has organized a voyage of discovery that starts with the four-minute tram ride from Manhattan. The tour then moves on to the old New York City Lunatic Asylum where Mae West was locked up for 10 days in 1926 after appearing in a play called "Sex"), the lighthouse that an inmate of the asylum



built in the mid-1800's because he feared a British invasion, and a farmhouse built soon after the Revolution.

Meets at 3 P.M. at the Manhattan side of the Roosevelt Island tram, Second Avenue at 59th Street and First Avenue; Oct. 2; \$5; (round-trip tram fare of \$2.80 is not included); (212) 265-2663.

MIDWOOD

Coming Soon to Brooklyn:
Traditions of India

Three classical Indian dancers, Indrani, Leela Raja and Pasumarthy Nithal, will perform the traditional Bharata Natyam and Kuchipudi repertoire at the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music in Midwood, Brooklyn, as part of their United States debut.

Mr. Vital learned Kuchipudi drama-dance from his father, one of India's most accomplished teachers of



CLINTON

Cousin Barnabas, Meet Your Peers

THIS is why you live in New York: it may be the only place in America with a theater company dedicated to plays about vampires.

The Vampyr Theater, currently in its second year at the Creative Place Theater on Eighth Avenue, grew out of Tony Sokol's lifelong fascination with vampires. New "plasma-pleasing" works are always in production.

For his latest play, "More Than You Can Chew," Mr. Sokol said he interviewed a "self-proclaimed local vampire" who responded to ads he placed in the city's newspapers.

Mr. Sokol said he interviewed the vampire much

Tracy Dillon and Troy D. Acree at the Creative Place Theater.



to... all... said... during... I talk...

The vampire admitted his lethargy... we had more to do with the fact that he interviewed them at 3 in the morning.

When else are vampires available?

"More Than You Can Chew," Creative Place Theater, 750 Eighth Avenue (near 46th Street); Thursdays through Saturdays, Sept. 30 to Oct. 9, 8 and 10:30 P.M.; \$10; \$9 for those dressed in Gothic costume; (212) 978-7245.

the form, which has been handed down from father to son for 500 years. Leela Raja has been studying Bharata Natyam, a women's solo dance, since she was 6 and has spent 14 years studying with Indrani, who is known for perfecting the form.

"Mondays Series: Why Dance Modern?"; Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music, Studio 307, Roosevelt Extension building, on Bedford Avenue between Campus Road and Avenue C.

CHELSEA

A Priestess of Punk
Brings Her Act Home

Kathy Acker, the writer, has returned to the United States after several years in London.

In a review of her collection of

novellas for The New York Times Book Review, James Polk wrote last year, "Kathy Acker is either hugely talented, taking fiction to new and undreamed-of



places, or hugely self-indulgent, spinning out empty punk fantasies to nowhere." In either case, her readings are provocative: Ms. Acker mesmerizes listeners with both her fragmented, occasionally disturbing prose and her tattooed triceps.

On Wednesday, Ms. Acker is to read from her new novel, "My Mother: Demonology," a book that seems typically hers, with lots of literary appropriations and wacky syntax.

The Kitchen, 512 West 19th Street; Sept. 29, 7 P.M.; \$6, \$4 for members; (212) 255-5793.

KINGSBRIDGE

Candles and Harpsichords:
Life in the Colonies

The Bronx will celebrate 18th-century New York with a festival of "Life in the Colonies" today in Van Cortlandt Park.

The pre-industrial era will be revisited with workshops on candle- and soap-making, harpsichord music and a re-enactment of a Revolutionary War battle (that is, if the organizers can find anyone to play the redcoats).

The park is home to the Van Cortlandt House, built in 1748 and the oldest house in the Bronx.

Van Cortlandt Park, Broadway and 246th Street; Sept. 26, 11 A.M. to 4 P.M.; (718) 430-1890.

JENNIFER STEINHAUER

Naum Kazhdan/The New York Times